AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Silica-filled rubber granules wherein the granules are comprised of dried granules of a cocoagulation product of rubber and silica having an average particle diameter (D50) of 300~3000 μm and a weight ratio of the granules within the range of D50±(D50×0.5) is at least 50% by weight, and wherein the granules having a sphericity of ~~at least 0.6~~ 0.68-0.85 determined by a ratio of the major axis (D_L) and the minor axis (D_S) of the granules (D_L/ D_S).

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): Silica-filled rubber granules according to claim 1, wherein a weight ratio of the granules within the range of D50±(D50×0.5) is at least 80% by weight.

Claim 3 (Original): Cross-linked rubber obtained by cross-linking the silica-filled rubber granules according to claim 1 or 2.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): A process for producing silica-filled rubber granules which comprises supplying a cake of a cocoagulation product of silica and rubber having a water content of 40~80% by weight to a drier provided with an indirect-heating type container

equipped with stirring wing blades, stirring the cake while applying shearing force to the cake

with the stirring wing blades, and then drying the cake.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): A process for producing silica-filled rubber granules according to

claim 4, wherein the cake is divided and fed to the drier.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): A process for producing silica-filled rubber granules according to

claim 4 or 5, wherein the clearance (t) between the stirring wing blades and the wall of the

container is adjusted to 2~50 mm.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Silica-filled rubber granules ~~according to claim 1,~~ wherein

the granules are comprised of dried granules of a cocoagulation product of rubber and silica

having an average particle diameter (D50) of 300~3000 μm and a weight ratio of the granules

within the range of D50±(D50×0.5) is at least 50% by weight, and wherein the granules having a

sphericity [[is]] of at least 0.68 determined by a ratio of the major axis (D_L) and the minor axis

(D_S) of the granules (D_L/ D_S).